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Homer

THE ILIAD

& Notes

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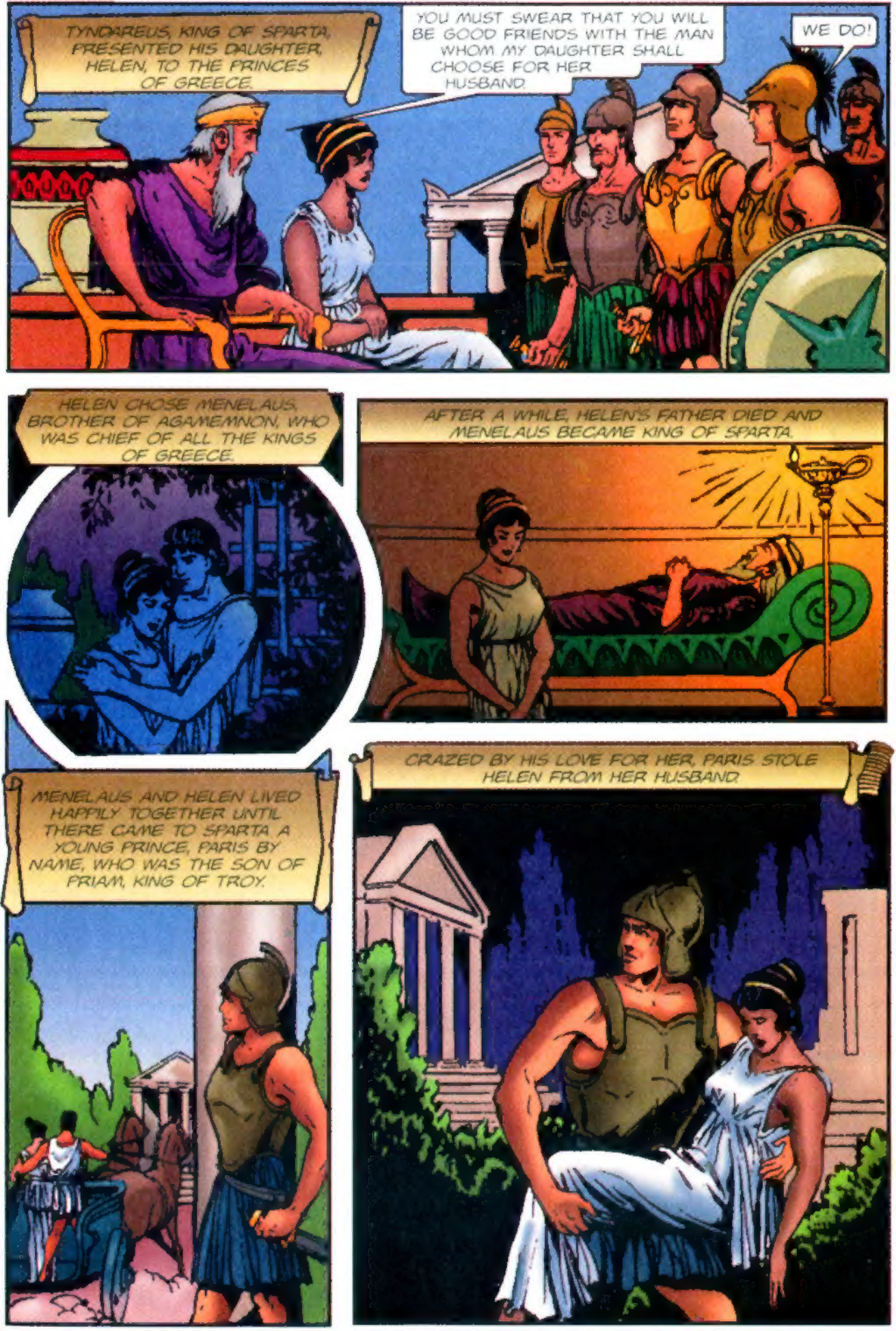
THE ILIAD

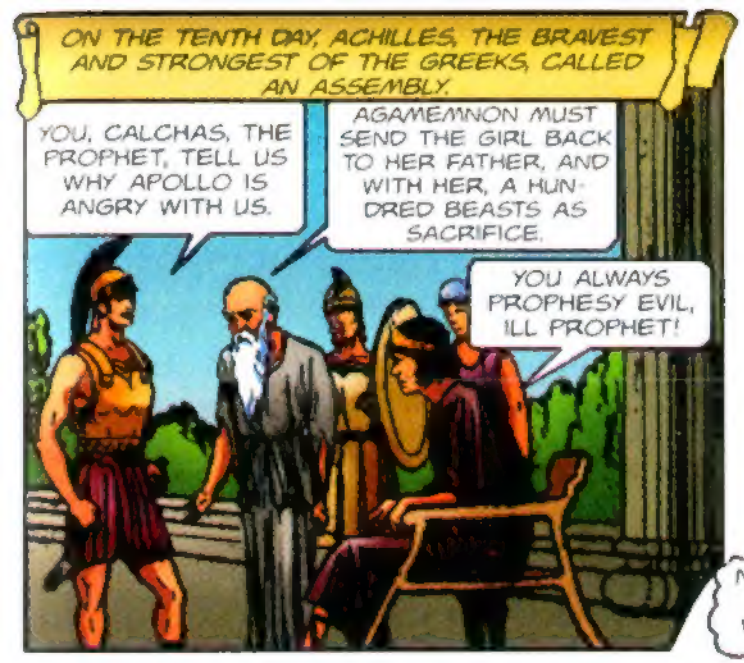
Illustrated by ALEX A. BLUM

by HOMER


TYNDAREUS, KING OF SPARTA, PRESENTED HIS DAUGHTER, HELEN, TO THE PRINCES OF GREECE.
YOU MUST SWEAR THAT YOU WILL BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE MAN WHOM MY DAUGHTER SHALL CHOOSE FOR HER HUSBAND.
WE DO!
HELEN CHOSE MENELAUS, BROTHER OF AGAMEMNON, WHO WAS CHIEF OF ALL THE KINGS OF GREECE.
AFTER A WHILE, HELEN'S FATHER DIED AND MENELAUS BECAME KING OF SPARTA.
MENELAUS AND HELEN LIVED HAPPILY TOGETHER UNTIL THERE CAME TO SPARTA A YOUNG PRINCE, PARIS BY NAME, WHO WAS THE SON OF PRIAM, KING OF TROY.
CRAZED BY HIS LOVE FOR HER, PARIS STOLE HELEN FROM HER HUSBAND.

MENELAUS' BROTHER, AGAMEMNON, CALLED A MEETING OF ALL GREEK LEADERS . . .
YOU PRINCES OF GREECE MUST KEEP YOUR OATH AND HELP MY BROTHER GET BACK THE FAIR HELEN.
WE'LL KEEP OUR OATH.
THUS BEGAN THE WAR BETWEEN THE GREEKS AND THE TROJANS. FOR NINE YEARS, THE GREEKS BESIEGED TROY, BUT THEY COULD NOT BREAK THROUGH THE CITY WALLS. THEY CAME TO BE IN GREAT WANT OF FOOD AND CLOTHES, SO THEY LEFT PART OF THE ARMY TO WATCH THE CITY, AND WITH THE REST THEY WENT FORTH AND DESPOILED OTHER CITIES. THUS CAME ABOUT THE GREAT QUARREL . . . BETWEEN AGAMEMNON AND ACHILLES.

THE GREEKS TOOK THE CITY OF CHRYSE AND DIVIDED THE SPOILS AMONG THE CHIEFS.
AGAMEMNON RECEIVED IN HIS SHARE OF THE SPOILS A GIRL NAMED CHRYSEIS, THE DAUGHTER OF THE PRIEST OF APOLLO*, THE GOD WHO WAS WORSHIPPED IN THE CITY.
CHRYSEIS, I'LL CARRY YOU BACK WITH ME WHEN I'VE TAKEN TROY.
*GOD OF MANLY BEAUTY.
THE PRIEST PLEADED FOR HIS DAUGHTER.
THEN THE GODS WILL HELP YOU TO TAKE THE CITY OF TROY AND BRING YOU SAFE TO YOUR HOMES.
AWAY WITH YOU, OLD MAN, OR IT WILL BE THE WORSE FOR YOU!
THE OLD MAN PRAYED TO APOLLO FOR HELP AND APOLLO HEARD HIM. THE GOD WAS ANGRY THAT HIS PRIEST SHOULD SUFFER SUCH THINGS.
APOLLO CAME DOWN FROM HIS PALACE ON TOP OF OLYMPUS.* HE BEGAN TO SHOOT ARROWS AND THEY CARRIED DEATH, FIRST TO DOGS AND MULES, AND THEN TO THE MEN. FOR NINE DAYS, PEOPLE AND ANIMALS DIED.
*HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN.


ON THE TENTH DAY, ACHILLES, THE BRAVEST AND STRONGEST OF THE GREEKS, CALLED AN ASSEMBLY.
YOU, CALCHAS, THE PROPHET, TELL US WHY APOLLO IS ANGRY WITH US.
AGAMEMNON MUST SEND THE GIRL BACK TO HER FATHER, AND WITH HER, A HUNDRED BEASTS AS SACRIFICE.
YOU ALWAYS PROPHESY EVIL, ILL PROPHET!

WHEN TROY HAS BEEN CONQUERED, WE'LL MAKE UP TO YOU WHAT YOU'VE LOST THREE TIMES OVER.
MY SHARE I'LL HAVE AT ONCE.

NEVER WAS THERE A KING SO SHAMELESS AND SO GREEDY! I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THE TROJANS FOR YOUR SAKE AND YOUR BROTHER'S. THEY NEVER DID HARM TO ME OR MINE.
GO, AND TAKE YOUR PEOPLE WITH YOU. BUT MARK, THE GIRL BRISEIS, WHO WAS GIVEN YOU, I WILL TAKE!

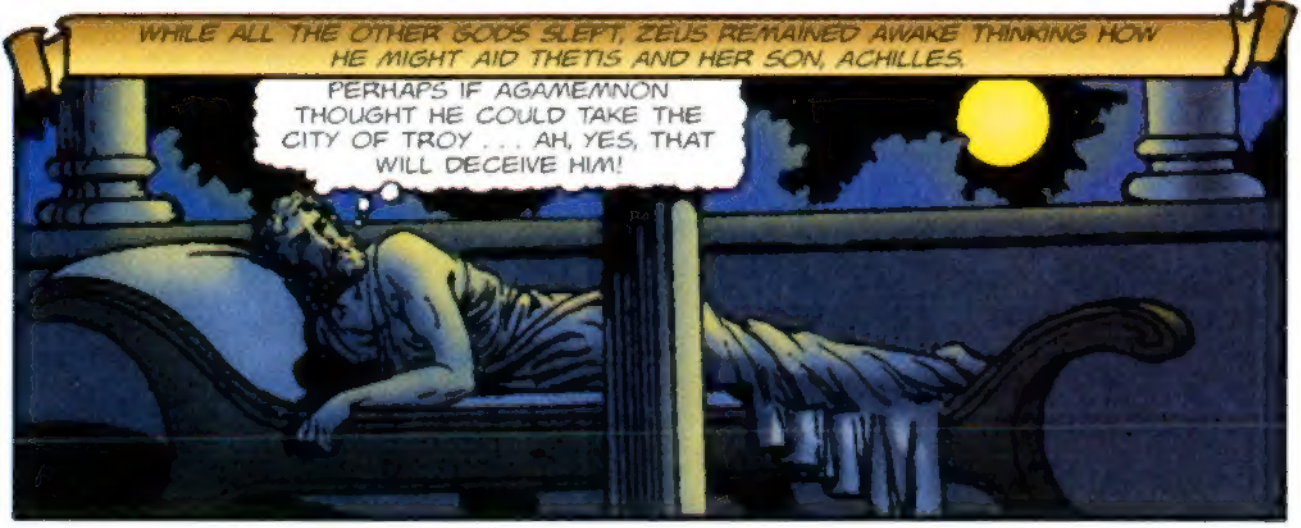
NOW I WILL SLAY THE VILLAIN WHERE HE SITS.

THE GODDESS ATHENE' HALTED ACHILLES FROM HIS INTENTION . . .
ARE YOU COME TO SEE THIS VILLAIN DIE?
NAY, I AM COME TO STAY YOUR RAGE! QUEEN HERA AND I LOVE YOU BOTH. DRAW NOT YOUR SWORD, BUT SAY WHAT YOU WILL.
GODDESS OF WISDOM

I'LL DO AS YOU BID . . . FOR HE WHO HEARS THE GODS IS HEARD BY THEM.

AFTER ACHILLES LEFT, AGAMEMNON ORDERED HIS HERALDS . . .
GO TO THE TENT OF ACHILLES AND FETCH THE GIRL BRISEIS. AND IF HE'LL NOT LET HER GO, SAY I'LL COME WITH OTHERS TO FETCH HER, AND IT'LL BE THE WORSE FOR HIM.
IN GREAT FEAR AND SHAME, THE HERALDS STOOD BEFORE ACHILLES . . .
DRAW NEAR. TIS NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT YOU ARE COME ON SUCH AN ERRAND.
TO HIS LOYAL FRIEND PATROCLUS, ACHILLES COMMANDED . . .
FETCH BRISEIS FROM HER TENT AND GIVE HER TO THE HERALDS LET THEM BE WITNESSES OF THIS EVIL DEED!
THE HERALDS WILL REMEMBER THIS DAY WHEN AGAMEMNON SHALL NEED MY HELP AND HE SHALL NOT HAVE IT.
ACHILLES TOLD HIS MOTHER, THETIS, OF THE PLOT AGAINST HIM . . .
GO TO OLYMPUS . . . TO THE PALACE OF ZEUS" AND ASK HIM TO HELP THE TROJANS SO THAT AGAMEMNON MAY LEARN HOW FOOLISH HE HAS BEEN.
HE'S ATTENDING A TWELVE DAYS' FEAST, BUT I'LL ASK HIM WHEN HE COMES BACK. MEANWHILE, DO YOU SIT STILL AND DO NOT GO FORTH TO BATTLE!
"GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
DAUGHTER OF THE SEA

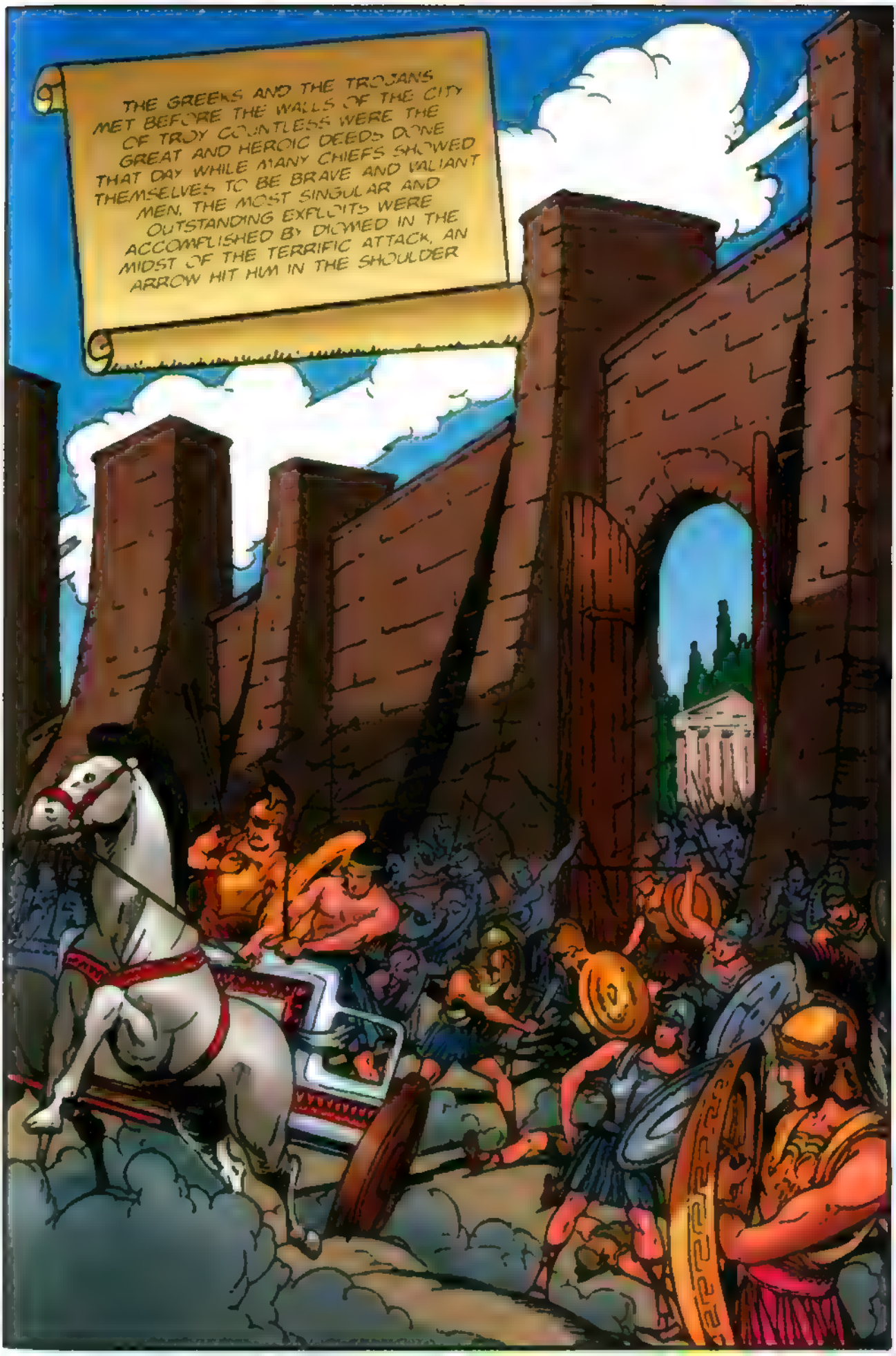
WHEN THE TWELVE DAYS OF THE FEASTING WERE OVER, THETIS ROSE OUT OF THE SEA AND WENT TO OLYMPUS.
O FATHER ZEUS, AGAMEMNON HAS SHAMED MY SON, ACHILLES! DO THOU, THEREFORE, MAKE THE TROJANS PREVAIL IN BATTLE SO THAT THE GREEKS FIND THEY CAN NOT DO WITHOUT ACHILLES.
THIS WILL MAKE A DREADFUL QUARREL BETWEEN ME AND THE LADY HERA*, MY WIFE. EVEN NOW SHE TELLS ME THAT I FAVOR THE TROJANS TOO MUCH!
*GODDESS OF MARRIED LIFE
THEN THETIS WENT AWAY AND DIVED DOWN INTO THE SEA.
IF I'VE EVER HELPED THEE WHEN THE OTHER GODS PLOTTED TO PUT THEE IN CHAINS, HELP ME NOW!
GO, QUICKLY, AND I'LL THINK HOW I MAY BEST DO WHAT YOU ASK.
WHO HAS BEEN WITH YOU, O LOVER OF PLOTS?
O, HERA, MY WIFE, DO NOT THINK TO KNOW ALL MY THOUGHTS!
HERA, WIFE OF ZEUS, SOON APPROACHED HER HUSBAND...


WHILE ALL THE OTHER GODS SLEPT, ZEUS REMAINED AWAKE THINKING HOW HE MIGHT AID THETIS AND HER SON, ACHILLES.
PERHAPS IF AGAMEMNON THOUGHT HE COULD TAKE THE CITY OF TROY . . . AH, YES, THAT WILL DECEIVE HIM!

THEN ZEUS SUMMONED A DREAM.
GO, DREAM, TO THE TENT OF AGAMEMNON, AND TELL HIM THAT IF HE WILL LEAD HIS ARMY TO BATTLE, HE'LL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY.

THE DREAM TOOK THE FORM OF NESTOR, WHOM AGAMEMNON THOUGHT TO BE THE WISEST OF THE GREEKS, AND STOOD BY THE BEDSIDE OF THE KING AND SAID . . .
WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME IN SLEEP? ARM THE GREEKS AND LEAD THEM OUT TO BATTLE, FOR YOU'LL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY.

THE KING BELIEVED THAT THIS FALSE DREAM WAS TRUE . . .
WE'RE GOING TO BATTLE AGAINST THE TROJANS. AT LAST, THIS LONG WAR IS GOING TO END.


THE GREEKS AND THE TROJANS MET BEFORE THE WALLS OF THE CITY OF TROY COUNTLESS WERE THE GREAT AND HEROIC DEEDS DONE THAT DAY WHILE MANY CHIEFS SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE BRAVE AND VALIANT MEN, THE MOST SINGULAR AND OUTSTANDING EXPLOITS WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY DIOMED IN THE MIDST OF THE TERRIFIC ATTACK, AN ARROW HIT HIM IN THE SHOULDER

THE GREAT ARCHER PANDARUS BOASTED AS HIS ARROW STRUCK DIOMED
ON, MEN OF TROY! I'VE WOUNDED THE BRAVEST OF THE GREEKS. HE'LL SOON FALL DEAD IN HIS CHARIOT
BUT DIOMED WAS NOT TO BE CONQUERED IN THIS FASHION
STOP THE CHARIOT. COME AND DRAW THIS ARROW OUT OF MY WOUND
SEEING THE BLOOD SPURT FROM HIS WOUND, DIOMED PRAYED TO THE GODDESS ATHENE
O GODDESS, STAND BY ME AS YOU DID ALWAYS STAND BY MY FATHER.
ATHENE HEARD HIS PRAYER
BE BOLD, O DIOMED, AND FIGHT AGAINST THE MEN OF TROY! I'LL STAND BY YOU!
THEN DIOMED FOUGHT EVEN MORE FIERCELY THAN BEFORE
AENEAS, BRAVEST OF THE TROJANS NEXT TO HECTOR, SPOKE TO PANDARUS...
DO YOU SEE THIS MAN, DIOMED, DEALING DEATH WHEREVER HE GOES? SHOOT AN ARROW AT HIM!
I'VE HIT HIM AND SEEN BLOOD FLOW, BUT I'VE NOT HARMED HIM. SOME GOD STANDS BY AND DEFENDS HIM, I'M SURE.

TAKE THE REINS AND WHIP AND I'LL FIGHT OR YOU FIGHT AND I'LL DRIVE
'TIS BEST THEY SHOULD HAVE THE DRIVER THEY KNOW I'LL FIGHT!
DIOMED HAD NOT GONE BACK TO HIS CHARIOT AND HIS CHARIOTEER WAS BY HIS SIDE.
LOOK THERE TWO MIGHTY WARRIORS PANDARUS AND AENEAS ARE COMING AGAINST US! IT MAY BE WELL FOR US TO GO BACK TO THE CHARIOT
DON'T TALK OF GOING BACK AS FOR MY CHARIOT, I DON'T WANT IT!
PANDARUS CAST HIS SPEAR AND IT PIERCED THE SHIELD OF DIOMED SO STRONGLY WAS IT THROWN
AHA YOU'RE HIT! THIS WOUND WILL STAY YOU FROM FIGHTING!
NOT SO YOU'VE WOUNDED ME NOT AT ALL BUT SEE WHAT I'LL SEND
PANDARUS WAS KILLED BUT AENEAS WOULD NOT LEAVE HIS COMRADE

AENEAS STOOD BY HIS COMRADE AS A LION STANDS BY THE CARCASS OF SOME BEAST IT HAS KILLED DIOMED STOOPED AND TOOK UP A GREAT STONE AND THREW IT AT AENEAS
THE STONE STRUCK AENEAS AND HE FELL TO THE GROUND. THUS HE WOULD HAVE DIED BUT FOR HIS MOTHER, APHRODITE, THE GODDESS
AS APHRODITE SEIZED HER SON, AENEAS, AND RAISED HIM UP, SHE THREW A VEIL OVER HIM TO HIDE HIM
YOU SHOULD NOT JOIN IN THE BATTLE DAUGHTER OF ZEUS!
DIOMED CAST HIS SPEAR AT THE GODDESS, AND SHE DROPPED HER BURDEN
BEWARE DIOMED DO NOT THINK TO FIGHT WITH GODS!
THE GOD APOLLO CAUGHT UP AENEAS WHEN HIS MOTHER DROPPED HIM. EVEN THEN, DIOMED WAS LOATHE TO LET HIM ESCAPE

SOON AFTERWARDS, HECTOR, WITH THE AID OF ARES,' STARTED TO DRIVE THE GREEKS BACK UP IN OLYMPUS, HERA AND ATHENE APPEALED TO ZEUS
'GOD OF WAR
FATHER, SEE HOW FURIOUSLY THE GOD ARES IS RAGING IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE GREEKS
MAY WE STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS THEM'
YOU MAY DO WHAT YOU PLEASE
THE GODDESSES YOKED THEIR HORSES TO HERAS CHARIOT AND WENT AS FAST AS THEY COULD TO THE EARTH
AND CHANGING THEMSELVES INTO DOVES, THEY FLEW TO WHERE THE GREEKS AND TROJANS WERE FIGHTING
WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLAIN OF TROY, THE GODDESSES COVERED THE CHARIOT WITH A MIST THAT NO ONE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE IT
HERA ADDRESSED THE GREEKS IN A VOICE AS LOUD AS FIFTY MEN SHOUTING TOGETHER
SHAME, MEN OF GREECE! THE TROJANS ARE DRIVING YOU TO YOUR SHIPS!
ATHENE WENT TO DIOMEDES SIDE
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE TIRED OR AFRAID, BUT YOU'RE NOT LIKE YOUR FATHER
IT IS THE GODDESS ATHENE!

I DO NOT DARE TO GO AGAINST ARES
DO NOT BE AFRAID OF ARES. I'LL COME WITH YOU!
STRAIGHT AT ARES, ATHENE DROVE THE CHARIOT. HE WAS STANDING BY A GREEK HE HAD SLAIN. THE HELMET OF HADES' WHICH ATHENE WORE PREVENTED ARES FROM SEEING HER
GOD WHO RULES THE DEAD
THEN DIOMED CAST HIS SPEAR AND ATHENE CAUSED IT TO WOUND ARES. ARES SHOUTED WITH THE PAIN AND ROSE UP TO THE SKY AS A THUNDER CLOUD RISES.
ARRRGH!
ATHENE TURNED ASIDE THE SPEAR THROWN BY ARES.
THIS WAS THE GREATEST DEED OF DIOMED THAT HE WOUNDED ARES AND DROVE HIM OUT OF THE BATTLE

LATER, ATHENE WAS CONFRONTED BY APOLLO . .
ATHENE, YOU LOVE THE GREEKS AND I LOVE THE TROJANS LETS JOIN TOGETHER TO STOP THEM FROM FIGHTING FOR TODAY
AND HOW SHALL WE STOP THEM
WELL NETTON HECTOR TO CHALLENGE THE BRAVEST OF THE GREEKS TO FIGHT WITH HIM MAN TO MAN
THE GODS DID AS THEY HAD PLANNED AND HECTOR WAS PLEASED HE ROSE BEFORE HIS TEN AND CALLED TO THE GREEKS
CHOOSE YOUR STRONGEST AND BRAVEST TO FIGHT ME MAN TO MAN! IF I KILL HIM YOU'LL GO TO YOUR SHIPS AND RETURN TO YOUR LAND IF HE SHOULD KILL ME, TROY IS YOURS!
THE GREEK CHAMPION WAS TO BE CHOSEN BY DRAWING NINE CHIEFS THREW THEIR LOTS INTO KING AGAMEMNON'S HELMET EACH
THE LOT DRAWN WAS THE ONE BELONGING TO AJAX
IT'S MINE AND I'M GLAD ABOVE MEASURE FOR I'LL CONQUER THIS MIGHTY HECTOR MY FRIENDS NO ONE SHALL CONQUER ME EITHER BY FORCE OR BY CRAFT FOR THE MEN OF SALAMIS ARE NOT TO BE SO CONQUERED

AJAX HELD HIS GREAT SHIELD BEFORE HIM, AS IT MIGHT BE A WALL. IT HAD SEVEN FOLDS OF BULL'S HIDE AND ONE FOLD OF BRONZE
COME NEAR, HECTOR THAT YOU MAY SEE WHAT MEN WE HAVE AMONG US, WE GREEKS, THOUGH THE GREAT ACHILLES SITS IDLE IN HIS TENT
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME, GREAT AJAX, AS TO A CHILD. I KNOW ALL THE ARTS OF BATTLE! COME LET US FIGHT OPENLY, FACE TO FACE!
THEN HECTOR THREW HIS SPEAR. THROUGH SIX FOLDS OF BULL HIDE THE SPEAR PASSED BUT THE SEVENTH STOPPED IT
AJAX THREW HIS SPEAR. IT PASSED THROUGH HECTOR'S SHIELD AND CAME NEAR
THE WARRIORS TOOK FRESH SPEARS AND RAN TOGETHER AS FIERCELY AS LIONS OR WILD BOARS.
THE BATTLE WAS GOING AGAINST HECTOR. A SPEAR POINT HAD GRAZED HIS NECK AND HE BLED. NOW THE WARRIORS TURNED TO SWORDS.

NIGHTFALL BROUGHT A COMMAND TO HALT THE BATTLE FROM HERALDS OF THE OPPOSING ARMIES

YOU ARE GREAT WARRIORS AND ZEUS LOVES YOU BOTH

BUT NOW THE NIGHT IS AT HAND, AND ZEUS BIDS YOU CEASE!

TIS FOR HECTOR TO SPEAK, FOR HE BEGAN THIS MATTER AND WHAT HE WILLS THAT I WILL ALSO

THE HERALD SPEAKS WELL LET US CEASE THEN FROM FIGHTING HAPLY WE MAY MEET AGAIN ANOTHER DAY AND THE GODS MAY GIVE THE VICTORY TO YOU OR TO ME

BUT NOW, LET US GIVE GIFTS TO EACH OTHER, SO THAT THE TROJANS AND GREEKS MAY SAY HECTOR AND AJAX MET IN BATTLE BUT PARTED IN FRIENDSHIP!

SO HECTOR GAVE TO AJAX A SILVER STUDDED SWORD WITH A SCABBARD AND BELT AND AJAX GAVE TO HECTOR A BUCKLER SPLENDID WITH PURPLE.

KING AGAMEMNON CALLED ALL THE GREEK CHIEFS TO A FEAST FOR INDEED, THEIR CHAMPION HAD PREVAILED

ZEUS TOOK A HAND IN THE STRUGGLE AND ADDRESSED THE GODS AND GODDESSES
LISTEN AND OBEY! NO ONE OF YOU SHALL HELP EITHER THE GREEKS OR THE TROJANS AND MARK THIS IF ANY GOD OR GODDESS DARES TO DO SO I'LL THROW HIM DOWN INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS!
DOES ANYONE THINK THAT I'M NOT STRONGER THAN ALL OF YOU PUT TOGETHER?
FATHER, WE KNOW RIGHT WELL THAT NONE OF US CAN STAND UP AGAINST YOU AND YET WE CAN NOT HELP PITYING THE GREEKS FOR WE FEAR THEY'LL BE ALTOGETHER DESTROYED!
ATHENE WAS HIS DAUGHTER AND ZEUS LOVED HER BETTER THAN ANY AMONG THE GODS AND GODDESSES. SO HE LISTENED AS SHE SPOKE
WE'LL NOT HELP THE GREEKS, FOR THIS YOU FORBID BUT, IF YOU'LL PERMIT, WE'LL GIVE THEM ADVICE
CONSENTING TO HIS DAUGHTER'S PLAN TO ADVISE THE GREEKS ZEUS YOKED HIS CHARIOT AND FLEW MIDWAY THROUGH HEAVEN AND EARTH TILL HE CAME TO MT IDA NEAR TO TROY
ZEUS SAT DOWN AND WATCHED THE BATTLE THE TIME HAD COME WHEN HE WOULD KEEP THE PROMISE MADE TO THETIS TO HELP THE TROJANS SO THAT THE GREEKS WOULD FEEL THE ABSENCE OF ACHILLES

THE TROJANS ARMED THEMSELVES INSIDE THEIR CITY AND WHEN THEY WERE READY, THEY EMERGED
AGAIN THE TWO ARMIES CAME TOGETHER AND SHIELD WAS DASHED AGAINST SHIELD AND SPEAR AGAINST SPEAR
SO LONG AS THE SUN ROSE, NEITHER SIDE PREVAILED BUT AT NOON, ZEUS HELD OUT HIS GOLDEN SCALES AND IN ONE HE LAID A WEIGHT FOR THE TROJANS, AND IN THE OTHER A WEIGHT FOR THE GREEKS WEIGHTS OF DEATH!
THE ARMY WHOSE WEIGHT WAS THE HEAVIER WOULD SUFFER MOST. AND LO! THE SCALE OF THE GREEKS SANK LOWER!
THEN ZEUS SENT A THUNDERBOLT INTO THE ARMY OF THE GREEKS AND THERE WAS GREAT FEAR AND CONFUSION AMONG BOTH MEN AND HORSES

DISMAYED THE GREEKS RETREATED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE WALL WHICH THEY HAD BUILT AS A DEFENSE FOR THEIR SHIPS

KING AGAMEMNON WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE GODDESS HERA TO PERSUADE HIS PEOPLE TO RETURN TO BATTLE
SHAME ON YOU! WHAT OF YOUR BOASTS THAT ONE OF YOU WOULD BE A MATCH FOR A HUNDRED TROJANS?

IT WAS EASY TO SAY SUCH THINGS WHEN YOU ATE THE FLESH OF BULLOCKS AND DRANK FULL CUPS OF WINE! BUT NOW A SINGLE TROJAN IS WORTH MORE THAN ALL OF YOU!
WAS THERE EVER A KING WHO HAD SUCH COWARDS FOR HIS PEOPLE?
KING AGAMEMNON'S TALK GAVE THE GREEKS NEW COURAGE AND THEY TURNED AND SET UPON THE TROJANS AGAIN

NOW THE TROJANS WERE FLYING IN THEIR TURN
SHOOT ON TEUCER, AND BE A JOY TO YOUR PEOPLE
EIGHT TROJANS HAVE I SHOT BUT THIS HECTOR I CAN NOT HIT
TEUCER'S BOW SLEW HECTOR'S CHARIOTEER AND HECTOR WAS FILLED WITH GRIEF AND RAGE
HECTOR SEVERELY WOUNDED TEUCER WITH A GREAT STONE
AJAX AND TWO COMRADES BORE TEUCER FROM THE FIELD THE TROJANS TOOK FRESH COURAGE AS THEY SAW THE GREAT ARCHER DEPART AGAIN. THEY DROVE THE GREEKS TOWARD THEIR SHIPS...

NIGHT HAS COME AND HINDERED US FROM FINISHING OUR WORK. GO AND FETCH FUEL THAT WE MAY BURN FIRES AND WATCH THE GREEKS TO SEE WHETHER THEY WILL TRY TO ESCAPE.
HERALDS SHALL GO TO THE CITY AND PROCLAIM THAT ALL PEOPLE MUST WATCH LEST THE ENEMY ENTER THE CITY WHILE WE ARE FIGHTING AT THE SHIPS.

THE GREEKS WERE SORELY TROUBLED BUT NOT LONG WAS HERE SAID THAN KING AGAMEMNON, AS HE SPOKE TO HIS CHIEFS.
O MY FRIENDS TRULY ZEUS SEEMS TO HATE ME

ONCE HE PROMISED THAT I SHOULD TAKE THIS CITY OF TROY AND RETURN HOME IN SAFETY. BUT THIS PROMISE HE HAS NOT KEPT!

BEFORE WE PERISH LET US FLEE TO OUR OWN LAND FOR TROY WE MAY NOT TAKE
O KING THIS TALK OF YOURS IS NOTHING BUT MADNESS!

IF YOU ARE BENT ON GOING BACK BUT I DIOMED AND ALL THE OTHER GREEKS WILL STAY TILL WE HAVE TAKEN THE CITY OF TROY

AS SENTINELS WATCHED AGAMEMNON AND HIS CHIEFS SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK LATER, OLD NESTOR ROSE TO SPEAK
O, KING IT WAS AN EVIL DAY WHEN YOU ANGERED ACHILLES UNDO THIS EVIL DEED
YOU'VE TRULY SPOKEN, OLD SIR I ACTED AS A FOOL THAT DAY!
NOT ONLY IS ACHILLES A GREAT WARRIOR, BUT HE'S DEAR TO ZEUS AND WORTH MORE THAN WHOLE ARMIES OF MEN SEE HOW WE'RE PUT TO FLIGHT WHEN HE STANDS ASIDE FROM THE BATTLE
I'LL MAKE AMENDS GIVING BACK MORE THAN I TOOK FROM HIM
TELL HIM, PHOENIX, TO LISTEN TO OUR PRAYERS
THE GIFTS ARE SUCH AS NO MAN CAN FIND FAULT WITH
AGAMEMNON'S GIFTS INCLUDED GOLD, SLAVES AND HORSES ALSO SEVEN CITIES WITH ALL OF THEIR HERDS AND FLOCKS AND ACHILLES CHOICE OF THE KING'S DAUGHTERS AS A WIFE...

ACHILLES WELCOMED THE GIFT BRINGERS
THOUGH I AM ANGRY WITH THE KING YOU ARE STILL MY FRIENDS
THE MESSENGERS MADE THEIR PLEAS FOR ACHILLES AID
THIS VERY DAY THE TROJANS CAME NEAR TO BURNING OUR SHIPS
TIS PLAIN THAT ZEUS IS ON THEIR SIDE
I'LL SET OUT CLEARLY WHAT IS IN MY HEART
WE ASK YOU, COME AND HELP US AS OF OLD
WHAT PROFIT HAVE I HAD PUTTING MY LIFE IN PERIL DAY AFTER DAY? I TOOK TWELVE CITIES TO WHICH I TRAVELED IN SHIPS, AND ELEVEN TO WHICH I WENT BY LAND AND FROM ALL I CARRIED MUCH SPOIL
ALL THIS SPOIL I GAVE TO KING AGAMEMNON, AND HE WHO ALL THE TIME REMAINED SAFE IN HIS TENT GAVE A FEW GIFTS TO ME AND TO OTHERS BUT KEPT THE GREATER PART FOR HIMSELF!

AND THEN HE TOOK BRISEIS LET HIM KEEP HER IF HE WILL BUT LET HIM NOT ASK ME FOR AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHOM HE HAS NOT WRONGED AND SHAMED THEM LET HIM ASK THEM NOW TO KEEP THE FIRE FROM THE SHIPS
AS FOR HIS DAUGHTER WHOM HE WOULD GIVE TO BE MY WIFE I WOULD NOT MARRY HER THOUGH SHE WERE AS BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE HERSELF
TOMORROW I'LL DO SACRIFICE TO ZEUS AND THE OTHER GODS AND I'LL STORE MY SHIPS WITH FOOD AND WATER AND LAUNCH THEM ON THE SEA AND ON THE THIRD DAY I SHALL COME TO MY OWN DEAR COUNTRY

ACHILLES I KNOW YOUR TEACHER CAN NOT STAY HERE WITHOUT YOU, BUT I PRAY YOU TO PUT THE ANGER OUT OF YOUR HEART
KING AGAMEMNON HAS RESTORED THAT WHICH HE TOOK FROM YOU
IT IS NOT FIT THAT A MAN SHOULD HARDEN HIS HEART IN THIS WAY
THOSE ARE MY FATHER TROUBLE ME NO MORE WITH PRAYER AND TEARS WHILE YOU SEEK TO HELP KING AGAMEMNON
LET US SEE WHAT WE SHALL DO NOTHING TODAY THE KING OFFERS HIM SEVEN GIRLS FOR ONE AND HE WILL NOT TAKE THEM SURELY HE SEEMS TO LACK REASON
YOU SPEAK WELL GREAT AJAX NEVERTHELESS AGAMEMNON PUT ME TO SHAME BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE GO AND TAKE MY MESSAGE I WILL NOT ARISE TO DO BATTLE WITH THE TROJANS TILL HECTOR SHALL SEEK TO SET FIRE TO MY SHIPS BUT WHEN HE SHALL DO THIS THEN I WILL ARISE AND STOP HIM

AGAMEMNON DECIDED TO SEND A SPY INTO THE TROJAN CAMP

LET US FIND OUT HOW MANY THERE ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE PLANNING

IS THERE ANY ONE WHO'LL DARE DO SUCH A THING?

DIOMED VOLUNTEERED TO GO INTO THE ENEMY CAMP

I'LL GO BUT IT IS WELL THAT I SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE WITH ME TWO WITS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

CHOOSE DIOMED THE MAN WHOM YOU WOULD MOST DESIRE

IF I MAY HAVE MY CHOICE ULYSSES SHALL GO WITH ME!

THAT NIGHT THE TWO ARMED THEMSELVES AND WENT TO SPY ON THE TROJANS

MEANWHILE, HECTOR WAS THINKING ABOUT SENDING A SPY INTO THE GREEK CAMP

WHO WILL GO AMONG THE GREEKS AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO TOMORROW?

I DOLON WILL GO O HECTOR BUT I WANT A GREAT REWARD EVEN THE HORSES OF ACHILLES

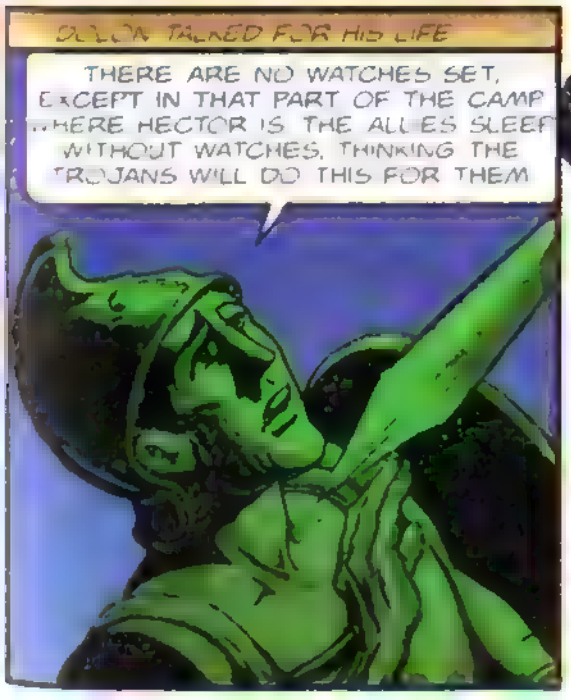
YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH IF YOU BRING US BACK THE INFORMATION WE SEEK

I HEAR FOOTSTEPS COMING OUR WAY
LET HIM PASS BY, THAT WE MAY TAKE HIM

DIOMED AND ULYSSES LAY DOWN AMONG THE DEAD UNTIL DOLON PASSED BY THEM

DOLON WAS CONFUSED AT THE SOUND OF THE MEN COMING TOWARD HIM
HECTOR HAS SENT MEN AFTER ME TO RETURN

DON'T KILL ME MY FATHER WILL PAY A GREAT REWARD HECTOR PERSUADED ME TO GO, PROMISING ME THE CHARIOT AND HORSES OF ACHILLES
WHERE'S HECTOR? WHAT WATCH DOES THE TROJAN KEEP?


DOLON TALKED FOR HIS LIFE
THERE ARE NO WATCHES SET, EXCEPT IN THAT PART OF THE CAMP WHERE HECTOR IS. THE ALLIES SLEEP WITHOUT WATCHES, THINKING THE TROJANS WILL DO THIS FOR THEM

ULYSSES AND DIOMED DECIDED IT WAS PRUDENT TO SLAY DOLON.

ACTING ON THE INFORMATION OF THE SLAIN DOLON DIOMED AND ULYSSES STOLE INTO THE TROJAN CAMP AND AFTER SLAYING MANY WHO SLEPT, DEPARTED WITH A PRIZED CHARIOT
AT FIRST LIGHT THE BATTLE WAS RENEWED AND THE FIRST GREEK TO BREAK THROUGH THE TROJAN LINE WAS KING AGAMEMNON
HECTOR DARED NOT STAND UP BEFORE AGAMEMNON IRIS' THE GODDESS BROUGHT HIM A MESSAGE FROM ZEUS
SO LONG AS AGAMEMNON FIGHTS, YOU HOLD BACK THIS IS HIS DAY TO WIN GREAT HONOR WHEN HE'S WOUNDED THEN YOU GO FORWARD!
MESSENGER OF ZEUS
AS IT WAS ORDAINED AGAMEMNON WAS WOUNDED AND COULD FIGHT NO MORE
CARRY ME BACK TO THE SHIPS I CAN FIGHT NO MORE!
DIOMED WAS WOUNDED IN THE ANKLE BY AN ARROW SHOT BY PARIS
I WISH I HAD WOUNDED YOU IN THE LOIN, BOLD DIOMED!
IF I COULD MEET YOU FACE TO FACE, YOU COWARD YOUR BOWS AND ARROWS WOULD NOT HELP YOU!

TROJANS CAME ABOUT ULYSSES AS DOGS ABOUT A WILD BOAR IN A WOOD
IT WOULD BE A SHAMEFUL THING TO FLY FROM THESE TROJANS A BRAVE MAN STANDS IN HIS PLACE LIVE OR DIE!
FIVE CHIEFS ULYSSES SLEW, BUT ONE OF THE FIVE WOUNDED HIM BEFORE HE WAS SLAIN
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD
O AJAX I HEAR THE VOICE OF ULYSSES AND IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN TROUBLE
COME LET US HELP HIM!
AS JACKALS ARE SCATTERED WHEN A LION COMES, SO THE TROJANS SCATTERED WHEN THE GREAT AJAX
ULYSSES AND AJAX THEN JOINED THEIR COMRADES BACK AT THEIR SHIPS

AFTER THE GREEKS HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK TO THEIR SHIPS HECTOR CAME TO THE GREAT TRENCH WHICH SPREAD ACROSS THE BATTLEGROUND IT WAS STUDDED WITH STAKES TO IMPALE THE CHARIOT HORSES
IT'S MAD TO TRY TO CROSS IN OUR CHARIOTS FOR THE WEEK AND HAS MANY STAKES IN IT
LET US LEAVE OUR CHARIOTS HERE WE WILL GO ON FOOT AGAINST THE WALL
SO THEY JUMPED DOWN FROM THEIR CHARIOTS AND WENT AGAINST THE WALL ON FOOT
STONES FELL AS FAST AS FLAKES OF SNOW FALL ON A WINTER'S DAY THE HELMETS AND SHIELDS OF THE TROJANS RANG OUT AS THE STONES CRASHED DOWN THEM

AT THE GATE WHERE NEXT, A WAY LEADING ON COMMANDS A STRANGE SIGHT
AN EAGLE HAD CAUGHT A GREAT SNAKE AND WAS CARRYING IT IN ITS CLAWS TO GIVE IT TO ITS YOUNG ONES FOR FOOD
BUT THE SNAKE FOUGHT FIERCELY FOR LIFE AND WRITHED THEIR ABOUT THE BIRD AND THE BREAST
THE EAGLE DROPPED THE SNAKE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE TWO ARMIES AND FLEW AWAY WITH A
THIS IS AN OMEN JUST AS THE EAGLE
THE GREEKS

AND AS THE SNAKE TURNED UPON THE BIRD SO WILL THE GREEKS TURN UPON US!
THIS IS BAD ADVICE YOU GIVE ME. SURELY THE GODS HAVE CHANGED YOUR WISDOM INTO FOOLISHNESS. THERE'S BUT ONE SIGN FOR A BRAVE MAN... THAT HE IS FIGHTING FOR HIS HOMELAND!
BEFORE A DOOR TO THE WALL LAY A GREAT STONE. SCARCELY TWO MEN COULD LIFT IT. BUT HECTOR TOOK IT UP AS EASILY AS A SHEPHERD CARRIES FLEECE OF A SHEEP AND THREW IT
NOW FOLLOW ME, MEN OF TROY AND WE'LL BURN THE SHIPS!

FROM A DISTANT MOUNTAIN TOP POSEIDON OBSERVED THE BATTLE
I WILL HELP THE GREEKS
GOD OF THE SEA
AS POSEIDON PASSED OVER THE WAVES THE GREAT BEASTS OF THE SEAS WHALES AND PORPOISES AND THE LIKE GAMBOLLED AROUND HIM AS HE WENT
POSEIDON MADE HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE CALCHAS THE HERALD HE ENTERED THE CAMP OF THE GREEKS
POSEIDON SPOKE TO AJAX THE GREATER AND AJAX THE LESSER
STIR YOURSELVES! GO TO THE PLACE WHERE HECTOR IS FIGHTING! GO THEN AND KEEP HIM BACK SOME GOD MAY GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND COURAGE
THIS IS A GOD WHO SENDS US TO THE BATTLE
I WOULD GO AGAINST THIS HECTOR, EVEN SHOULD I GO ALONE

AJAX RUSHED INTO BATTLE AND CAST A STONE AT HECTOR SMITING HIM ABOVE THE RIM OF THE SHIELD ON HIS NECK
THE TROJANS CARRIED THE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HECTOR OFF
WITH HECTOR OUT OF THE BATTLE THE GREEKS TOOK FRESH COURAGE AND DROVE THE TROJANS BEYOND THE TRENCH
WHEN ZEUS LOOKED AND SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED HE WAS VERY ANGRY HE BLAMED HERA HIS WIFE
IS THIS YOUR DOING, REBELLIOUS ONE? TELL ME THE TRUTH!
NAY IT IS POSEIDON WHO GIVES THE GREEKS STRENGTH AND COURAGE!
GO TO POSEIDON TELL HIM IT IS NOT MY WILL THAT HE MEDDLE WITH THESE THINGS LET HIM GO BACK TO THE SEA FOR THERE HE IS MASTER! THEN GO TO APOLLO AND BID HIM PUT NEW LIFE AND COURAGE INTO HECTOR, AND SEND HIM BACK TO BATTLE!

IRIS CARRIED ZEUS' MESSAGE TO POSEIDON
BY WHAT RIGHT DOES ZEUS BID ME TO DO THIS THING AND CEASE FROM THAT? WE ARE THREE BROTHERS OF OLD TIME TO ME WAS GIVEN DOMINATION OF THE SEA TO PLUTO THE DWELLINGS OF THE DEAD AND TO ZEUS REIGN OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH
DO YOU KNOW THE ELDEST BORN IS EVER THE STRONGEST, O POSEIDON?
THESE ARE WORDS OF WISDOM, IRIS YET IF ZEUS IS MINDED TO SAVE THE CITY OF TROY THERE'LL BE ENMITY WITHOUT CEASING BETWEEN HIM AND ME
APOLLO RECEIVED ZEUS' MESSAGE AND ATTENDED HECTOR AT ONCE TO RESTORE HIS STRENGTH AND COURAGE
I AM APOLLO OF THE GOLDEN SWORD AND ZEUS HAS SENT ME TO HELP YOU
THE TROJANS SWIFTLY RECOVERED THE GROUND THEY HAD LOST AND MADE THEIR ASSAULT UPON THE SHIPS WITH HECTOR LEADING THEM
COME ON, MEN OF TROY FOR ZEUS IS WITH US!

BRING ME FIRE THAT WE MAY BURN THE SHIPS OF THESE ROBBERS FOR ZEUS HAS GIVEN US THE VICTORY TODAY
AJAX FOUGHT BRAVELY THRUSTING AT ANYONE WHO CAME NEAR THE SHIPS WITH FIRE
YOU MUST ACQUIT YOURSELVES AS MEN O GREEKS OUR HOPE IS IN COURAGE THERE'S NO ONE TO SAVE YOU IF YOU'LL NOT SAVE YOURSELVES!
PATROCLUS ENTREATED ACHILLES TO HELP HIM SAVE THE GREEKS
LET ME PUT ON YOUR ARMOUR AND LET YOUR PEOPLE GO WITH ME THE TROJANS WILL THINK YOU'VE COME TO BATTLE AND THE GREEKS WILL HAVE A BREATHING SPACE!
GO AND KEEP THE FIRE FROM THE SHIPS BUT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THIS COME BACK AND FIGHT NO MORE WITH THE TROJANS
AT THE SIGHT OF PATROCLUS WHOM THEY BELIEVED TO BE ACHILLES THE TROJANS FLED THEN, PATROCLUS FORGOT ACHILLES COMMAND
NOW I SHALL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY!
GO BACK PATROCLUS IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO TAKE THE GREAT CITY OF TROY NO NOR EVEN ACHILLES WHO IS A FAR BETTER MAN THAN YOU!

THREE TIMES DID PATROCLUS CHARGE INTO THE RANKS OF THE TROJANS AND EACH TIME HE SLEW NINE WARRIORS
HECTOR SPOKE TO HIS CHARIOTEER
WE'LL SEE WHETHER WE CAN NOT DRIVE BACK THIS PATROCLUS FOR IT MUST BE HE ACHILLES HE IS NOT THOUGH HE WEAR HIS ARMOUR!
PATROCLUS STRUCK HECTOR'S CHARIOTEER WITH A GREAT ROCK
AH, SEE HOW NIMBLE IS THIS MAN! SEE HOW WELL HE DIVES!
THE GOD APOLLO ENRAGED AT PATROCLUS STRUCK HIM A GREAT BLOW SO THAT HE COULD NOT SEE THEN ONE OF THE TROJANS WOUNDED PATROCLUS IN THE BACK
AS PATROCLUS STOOD DEFENCELESS, HECTOR DROVE A SPEAR INTO HIM AND HE FELL TO THE GROUND
DID YOU THINK, PATROCLUS, THAT YOU WOULD TAKE OUR CITY, SLAY US WITH THE SWORD AND CARRY AWAY OUR WIVES AND DAUGHTERS!
LO! I'VE OVERCOME YOU WITH MY SPEAR AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR SHALL EAT YOUR FLESH! EVEN GREAT ACHILLES CAN NOT HELP YOU
YOU BOAST TOO MUCH O HECTOR IT'S APOLLO WHO HAS BROUGHT ME TO MY DEATH

THE MEN OF BOTH SIDES FOUGHT OVER THE BODY OF PATROCLUS AND HECTOR STRIPPED THE BODY OF ACHILLES ARMOUR AND WORE IT HIMSELF
IN THE TENT OF ACHILLES
I BRING BAD NEWS PATROCLUS IS DEAD AND HECTOR HAS HIS ARMS, BUT THE GREEKS AND TROJANS ARE FIGHTING FOR HIS BODY!
THETIS, HIS MOTHER ATTENDED ACHILLES IN HIS GREAT DESPAIR.
WHY DO YOU WEEP, MY SON?
ALL THAT YOU ASKED FROM ZEUS, HE HAS DONE BUT PATROCLUS IS DEAD I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE BUT TO AVENGE MYSELF UPON HECTOR
DO NOT SPEAK SO, FOR IT IS WRITTEN THAT WHEN HECTOR DIES, THE HOUR IS ALSO NEAR WHEN YOU MUST DIE!
I WOULD THAT COULD DIE THIS HOUR, FOR I SENT MY FRIEND TO HIS DEATH! CURSED BE THE ANGER THAT SETS MEN TO STRIVE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND AS FOR MY FATE WHAT MATTERS T?

AND SO ACHILLES AND KING AGAMEMNON ENDED THEIR QUARREL
IT WAS A FOOLISH THING THAT WE QUARRELED ABOUT A GIRL MANY A GREEK WHO IS NOW DEAD WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN ALIVE BUT FOR THIS
IT WAS NOT I BUT THE FURY WHO TURNS THE THOUGHTS OF MEN TO MADNESS THAT BROUGHT OUR QUARREL ABOUT NEVERTHELESS IT IS FOR ME TO MAKE AMENDS
I WILL GIVE THEE ALL THE GIFTS WHICH ULYSSES PROMISED IN MY NAME
GIVE THE GIFTS TO KING OR KEEP THEM FOR YOURSELF THERE IS ONE THING ONLY THAT I CARE FOR TO GET TO THE BATTLE WITHOUT DELAY
THE TROJANS WERE DRIVEN BACKWARDS BY THE FURY OF THE ASSAULT LED BY ACHILLES
PRIAM, KING OF TROY, WAS TROUBLED BY THE RETREAT OF HIS SOLDIERS
KEEP OPEN THE GATES THAT THE SOLDIERS MAY ENTER BY THEM FOR THEY ARE FLYING BEFORE ACHILLES

KING PRIAM BESOUGHT HIS SON NOT TO FIGHT WITH ACHILLES . . .
COME WITHIN THE WALLS, DEAR SON . . . COME, FOR YOU ARE THE HOPE OF THE CITY.
WOE IS ME IF I GO WITHIN THE WALLS! WILL THEY NOT REPROACH ME, WHO GAVE ME GOOD ADVICE WHICH I WOULD NOT HEAR?
HIS MOTHER, QUEEN HECUBA, PLEADED WITH HECTOR TO JOIN THEM BEHIND THE WALLS.
DO NOT STAND UP IN BATTLE AGAINST ACHILLES. IF HE CONQUERS YOU, DOGS WILL EAT YOUR FLESH!
SHALL I LAY DOWN MY SHIELD AND MEET HIM AND SAY "WE'LL GIVE BACK THE FAIR HELEN AND ALL THE RICHES WHICH PARIS CARRIED OFF WITH HER?"
NO . . . 'TIS BETTER FAR TO MEET IN ARMS AND SEE WHETHER ZEUS WILL GIVE THE VICTORY TO HIM OR TO ME.
IN THEIR PALACE ON OLYMPUS, THE GODS LOOKED DOWN AND ZEUS PITIED HECTOR.
MY HEART IS GRIEVED FOR HECTOR . . . HECTOR, WHO HAS NEVER FAILED TO HONOR ME AND THE OTHER GODS. SHALL WE SAVE HIM FROM DEATH, OR LET HIM FALL BY THE SPEAR OF ACHILLES?

HECTOR AND ACHILLES FACED EACH OTHER AT LAST . . .
LET'S MAKE THIS AGREEMENT . . . IF ZEUS GIVES ME VICTORY TODAY, I'LL GIVE BACK YOUR BODY TO THE GREEKS, ONLY I'LL KEEP YOUR ARMS. IF . . .
NO! LET US FIGHT THAT I MAY HAVE VENGEANCE FOR MY COMRADES WHOM THOU HAST SLAIN, ESPECIALLY PATROCLUS!
HECTOR AND ACHILLES FOUGHT FIERCELY . . .
O ACHILLES, I ENTREAT YOU TO GIVE MY BODY TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER. LARGE RANSOMS WILL THEY PAY OF GOLD AND SILVER.
SPEAK NOT TO ME OF RANSOM! PRIAM SHALL NOT BUY THEE BACK!
THE DYING HECTOR CAUTIONED ACHILLES TO BEWARE.
BEWARE THE ANGER OF THE GODS.
DIE, DOG THAT YOU ARE . . . MY DOOM I'LL MEET WHEN IT SHALL PLEASE THE GODS.
ACHILLES PIERCED THE ANKLE-BONES OF THE DEAD MAN AND FASTENED THE BODY WITH THONGS OF OX-HIDE TO THE CHARIOT.

THETIS VISITED THE TENT OF ACHILLES. SHE TOLD HIM THAT ZEUS WAS ANGERED BY ACHILLES' TREATMENT OF THE BODY OF HECTOR.
TIS THE WILL OF ZEUS THAT YOU GIVE UP THE BODY TO KING PRIAM.
LET IT BE SO IF THE GODS WILL HAVE IT.
EDITOR'S NOTE: WITH THE FUNERAL OF HECTOR, HOMER'S ILIAD ENDS. WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARD, WE LEARN FROM OTHER SOURCES.
LATER, AN ARROW FROM THE BOW OF PARIS, GUIDED BY THE GOD APOLLO, KILLED ACHILLES. IT WAS AN ARROW ALSO THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF PARIS, WHO CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE.
THEN IT WAS THAT THE GREEKS DEVISED THE PLAN OF BUILDING A WOODEN HORSE . . . HIDING IN IT, IN ORDER TO EFFECT THEIR ENTRY INTO THE CITY. THE TROJANS DRAGGED THE HORSE INTO THE CITY, THINKING IT WAS AN OFFERING TO THE GODS. THUS THE GREEKS, EMERGING FROM THE HORSE, FINALLY TOOK THE CITY IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE SIEGE.
THE END

On the plain before the walled city of Troy, a mighty army waits. The greatest heroes of Greece have gathered to avenge the honor of one man, the warrior king Menelaus, for the Trojan prince Paris stole away the one thing that Menelaus valued more than his gold: his wife, Helen. The final battle nears, and with it a duel between the champions of two mighty forces: Achilles of the Greeks, and the Trojan, Hector. An epic tale of war, love and betrayal, Homer's *Iliad* is a cornerstone of Western literature!

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